



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release:

June 8, 2010

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DHR PARTNERS WITH THE FOUNDATION FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO CIVIC WORKS PROGRAM

\$1 Million grant will help fund employment services program

BALTIMORE, JUNE 8, 2010 - - The Maryland Department of Human Resources' (DHR) Maryland RISE Program has provided a \$524,023 grant to **Civic Works**, Baltimore's urban service corps. The Foundation for an Open Society will provide matching funds to this project for a total grant of \$1 million to serve unemployed and underemployed Baltimore residents.

"We are working aggressively through our Maryland RISE (Reaching Independence and Stability through Employment) program to help move people into work," said Brenda Donald, Secretary for the Department of Human Resources. "We have been able to successfully compete for funding from the Open Society's special fund to alleviate poverty in our effort to serve our target population."

Civic Works will use the funding to expand its B'more Green program. This program trains participants in brownfields remediation, hazard abatement and environmental demolition. The funding also supports **Civic Works'** move to a dedicated training facility.

DHR's RISE program is a complement to the O'Malley Brown Administration's Skills2Compete initiative. This initiative focuses on increasing work skills and improving employment outcomes in an effort to improve stability for families.

Maryland RISE targets three specific populations: Current temporary cash assistance recipients, non-custodial parents who owe child support, and youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who are transitioning out of foster care. These populations traditionally need additional supports to find family-sustaining jobs, and this partnership will provide the extra supports needed.

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption, and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; provide protective services, case- management, supportive housing, in-home aide services, and respite care to vulnerable adults; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also funds programs for homeless persons, refugees, and migrant- workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered, or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 760,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary